

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION OECD PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 212297

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, EUR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OCTOBER 26 NEWS BRIEFING

EXCERPTS AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY'S BRIEFING FOLLOW:

"Q: BOB, IF I COULD SWITCH TO A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT TOPIC, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC YESTERDAY PROTESTED US SUPPLIES -- DELIVERIES OF US SUPPLIES OUT OF GERMANY TO ISREAL. AND IN THE SAME CONTEXT, AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND WAS DESCRIBED AS HAVING EXPRESSED REGRETS OVER A LACK OF COMMUNICATIONS IN THIS CONTEXT. AND IN AT LEAST ONE MORN-ING PAPER HERE IN WASHINGTON, THIS WAS DESCRIBED AS A POSSIBLE MAJOR SOURCE OF FRICTION BETWEEN BONN AND WASHINGTON. WOULD YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT?

A: WELL, LET ME SAY THAT OUR VIEW IS THAT THE MAINTENANCE UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE MILITARY BALANCE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WHICH IN OUR VIEW AND BY OUR ACTION IS WHAT THE RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL IS ABOUT, IS JUST AS MUCH IN THE VITAL INTERESTS OF WEST GERMANY AND OUR OTHER

NATO ALLIES AS IT IS IN OUR INTEREST AND THAT OF THE WORLD AT LARGE.

LET ME ADD THAT WE REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE WEST GERMANS ON THIS MATTER, AND I THINK YOU WILL NOTE THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC'S AMBASSADOR IS COMING IN TO SEE THE SECRETARY LATER TODAY. THAT IS AT HIS REQUEST.

Q: BOB, ON THE SAME SUBJECT, MR. SCHLESINGER THIS MORNING SEEMED TO IMPLY THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD REFLECT (ON) ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS GERMANY ON THE ONE SIDE AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHO DIDNT SUPPORT OR AT LEAST BEHAVED IN A WAY WHICH DIDNT SEEM QUITE SATISFACTORY. IS THAT ALSO THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A: WE)), LET ME SAY THAT WE WERE AND HAVE BEEN IN A VERY CRITICAL PERIOD, A PERIOD WHICH AFFECTED IN MANY WAYS ALL OF US, OURSELVES AND OUR ALLIES IN WESTERN EUROPE. AND THAT WE WERE STRUCK BY A NUMBER OF OUR ALLIES GOING TO SOME LENGTHS TO IN EFFECT SEPARATE THEMSELVES PUBLICLY FROM US. AND IT RAISES THE QUESTION FOR US AS TO HOW THAT ACTION ON THEIR PART CAN BE SQUARED WITH WHAT THE EUROPEANS HAVE OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE INDIVISIBILITY BETWEEN US ON MATTERS OF SECURITY.

Q: CAN I CARRY ON ON THIS. WERE THERE ANY CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EUROPEANS ON ALL THESE PROBLEMS, AND ESPECIALLY IN THE LAST THIRTY-SIX HOURS, WHEN THE QUESTION OF ALLIES CAME UP?

A: YES -- EMPHATICALLY, YES.

Q: CONSULTATION OR ADVICE?

A: EMPHATICALLY THERE WAS CONSULTATION IN THE NATO COUNCIL....

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Q: BOB, DO WE HAVE ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A FEAR OF A CUT-OFF OF OIL SUPPLIES WAS BEHIND THE EUROPEAN MOVE TO PUBLICLY DISASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH US?

A: IT IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR WHAT ENTIRELY MAY HAVE BEEN THE REASONS AND THE MOTIVATIONS FOR THE ATTITUDES THAT A NUMBER OF THE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS TOOK, SOME OF WHICH WERE EXPRESSED PUBLICLY. WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF HOW AN OIL EMBARGO AFFECTS EUROPE. WE HAVE OFTEN REVIEWED WITH EUROPEAN NATIONS THE ISSUE AND THE POSSIBILITY OF AN OIL EMBARGO FROM THE AREA. WE ARE QUITE AWARE OF THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THAT. BUT HERE WE FOUND OURSELVES IN A SITUATION OF SOME TENSENESS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, AND WE

COULD HAVE APPRECIATED A LITTLE MORE UNIFIED SUPPORT FOR THE ACTIONS THAT WE FELT WERE NECESSARY TO TAKE....

Q: BOB, HAS THE SECRETARY TAKEN UP THIS EXPRESSION OF SOME UNHAPPINESS WITH THE EUROPEAN RESPONSE WITH THE EUROPEANS DIRECTLY? HAS THIS BEEN TAKEN UP BY AMBASSADORS HERE, (OR) IN EUROPE? HOW HAS THIS BEEN EXPRESSED?

A: WELL, OVER THE PERIOD OF THE LAST FEW WEEKS, AND I WOULD SAY PARTICULARLY SINCE OCTOBER 6, IT HAS BEEN A TOPIC OF DISCUSSION IN A VARIETY OF MEETINGS, BOTH HERE AND ABROAD. SO THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE NO REASON TO BE UNAWARE OF THIS VIEW....

Q: BOB, WHAT WOULD THE UNITED STATES LIKE TO SEE THE WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DO NOW TO ASSIST OUR EFFORT IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

A: I WILL BE PREPARED TO SPEAK TO THAT ON ANOTHER DAY.

Q: BOB, IN THE SAME AREA, WERE THERE ANY OF OUR NATO ALLIES THAT GAVE US THE KIND OF SUPPORT WE WOULD HAVE APPRECIATED?

A: YES.

Q: COULD YOU TELL US WHO THEY WERE?

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A: THERE WAS ONE COUNTRY IN PARTICULAR, AND I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO SAY PUBLICLY WHO THAT IS RIGHT NOW....

Q: BOB, THIS QUESTION -- THERE IS NO DEFINITE ANSWER, BUT I WOULD JUST LIKE TO RAISE IT WITH YOU -- THIS QUESTION OF THE INDIVISIBILITY OF SECURITY WITH REGARD TO ANYTHING WHICH THREATENS US, WHICH THREATENS SOMEONE ELSE -- COMES UP FROM TIME TO TIME. ONE TIME IN A SITUATION NOT ENTIRELY ANALOGOUS, BUT I CAN REMEMBER IN 1964, 1965, WHEN MR. MCNAMARA AND MR. RUSK WERE ELEVATING OUR COMMITMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA TO THE SAME LEVEL AS OUR COMMITMENT TO NATO ALMOST, AND WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE INDIVISIBILITY OF SECURITY -- WELL, THIS IS A LOT CLOSER. BUT IS THERE EVER ANY WAY OF TRYING TO DETERMINE IN ADVANCE WHAT REQUIRES THE INDIVISIBILITY OF SECURITY, OR DO YOU JUST HAVE TO TAKE EACH ONE AND AN AD HOC BASIS?

A: WELL, EACH SITUATION HAS ITS OWN DYNAMICS, AND AS IS IMPLIED IN YOUR QUESTION, THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE WORLD -- IF YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT SOUTHEAST ASIA ON ONE HAND AND WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST IN THIS CONNECTION. BUT AS I HAVE ALREADY POINTED OUT,

WHAT WE WERE FACING WAS A CRITICAL SITUATION THAT INVOLVED THE US AND THE USSR. SO THAT THE EUROPEAN INTEREST IN THE INDIVISIBILITY OF SECURITY WE FEEL OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARDS WHAT THE UNITED STATES WAS ATTEMPTING TO DO IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q: BUT PROXIMITY IS NOT THE ONLY ELEMENT THAT ENTERS INTO THIS INDIVISIBILITY, IS IT? I MEAN THERE COULD BE MANY OTHER FACTORS.

A: LET ME GO ON BACKGROUND HERE. WE ARE TALKING LESS ABOUT PROXIMITY OF AREA THAN WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE US AND THE USSR. AND WE THINK THAT THEIR SECURITY INTERESTS SHOULD BE A CONSIDERATION.

Q: BOB, A BASIC QUESTION THAT ARISES ALL THE TIME -- AND THIS IS THE EUROPEAN CONCERN OBVIOUSLY, ABOUT OIL.
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AND THE UNITED STATES HAS TAKEN A POSITION, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, IN VARIOUS OIL TALKS, THAT IT WANTED TO WORK OUT A SHARING PROGRAM, BUT ONLY INVOLVING OIL IN INTERNATIONAL SHIPMENTS, NOT TOTAL WORLD OIL SUPPLY, BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES HAS A GREAT DEAL OF ITS OWN. IS THE UNITED STATES NOW READY TO TAKE THE EUROPEAN CONCERNS ON THIS THING INTO CONSIDERATION AND MAYBE RECONSIDER ITS POSITION ON THAT?

A: AS A POLICY MATTER, I JUST AM NOT EQUIPPED TO ANSWER THAT.

Q: I JUST WANTED TO RAISE IT AS A QUESTION.

A: I HAVE ALREADY SAID THAT WE ARE VERY MUCH AWARE OF WHAT HAPPENS IN EUROPE AS WE ARE WHAT HAPPENS HERE WHEN THERE IS AN OIL EMBARGO. AND WE UNDERSTAND THE CONCERNS OF THE EUROPEANS. WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT POSSIBLE TO HAVE OIL PRODUCTION AND EXPORT RESTORED SO THAT NO ONE SUFFERS FROM A CUT-OFF. KISSINGER

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